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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

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1. The Ministry of the Interior and the Amt für Kontrolle des Warenverkehrs (AKW -- Office for Supervision of Traffic in Goods) have made preparations in East Berlin to be able to cope with the situation which would result from an order to seal off Berlin, particularly West Berlin, from the Russian zone on short notice.
2. The Ministry of the Interior plans to have a new 9-kilometer railroad line between Strausberg Station and Strausberg-Jugendheim completed by 1 May 1954. The terminus of this line borders on the military restricted area. Initially the line will be single-track and will be operated with steam locomotives; but it is scheduled for double-tracking and for conversion to electric traction when the third rail can be installed. Major General Willi Mayer, chief of the KVP construction and billeting section, has stated that the construction of this line will make it possible to transport strong military alert forces to the Berlin area in the shortest possible time; he expressly stated that personnel rather than goods will be transported by this line.
3. The AKW is hastily reconditioning all the check points on the Ring around Berlin in an effort to be able to check on all traffic to and from Berlin on short notice.
4. The communication network of the Interior Ministry is at present connected through the automatic telephone system of the Reichsbahn (BASA).¹
5. Because of fears of riots against the East German government, all public offices and buildings are guarded by forces recruited in the offices.

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1. comment: BASA makes it possible for all railroad offices in the zone to execute local and long-distance telephone calls within the shortest possible time.

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